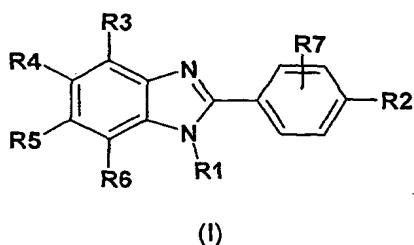


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Claims

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug ester thereof:



wherein

R1 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted (C₁-C₆ alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, cycloalkyloxy-lower alkyl, lower thioalkyl, lower alkylthio-lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl);

R2 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted (lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl-lower alkyl);

R3 is selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower thioalkyl, lower thioalkenyl, aryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, heteroaryl, aryl-lower alkyl and heteroaryl-lower alkyl and amino);

R4 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, cyano, hydroxy, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower thioalkyl, lower thioalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl-lower alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and amino) and the group having the formula R8-Z-(CH₂)_n;

wherein Z represents a direct bond or is selected from the group consisting of O, NH, CH₂, CO, SO, SO₂ or S;

wherein R8 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted (aryl, heteroaryl, carbocyclic aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl);

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and wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

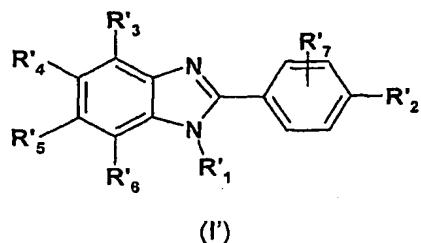
R5 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, cyano, hydroxyl, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl-lower alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and amino);

R6 is selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower thioalkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl-lower alkyl and amino);

R7 represents one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, hydroxyl, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, cyano, and carbonyl);

the optional substituent or substituents on R1-R8 being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, mono or di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, sulfanyl, mono or di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, lower alkoxy, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₈ heterocycloalkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, nitryl, aryl; all of which, except halogen, are independently optionally substituted by one or more substituents, selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, mono or di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, sulfanyl, mono or di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, lower alkoxy, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₈ heterocycloalkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, nitryl, aryl.

2. A compound of formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or prodrug ester thereof:



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wherein

R'₁ is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted (C₁-C₆ alkyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, lower alkynyl, lower thioalkyl-lower alkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl);

R'₂ is lower alkyl;

R'₃ is selected from the group consisting of halo, cyano, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower thioalkyl, lower thioalkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl and aryl-lower alkyl);

R'₄ is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, cyano, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, aryl, aryl-lower alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-lower alkyl) and the group having the formula R'₈-Z(CH₂)_n-;

wherein Z represents a direct bond or is selected from the group consisting of O, NH, CH₂, CO, SO, SO₂ or S;

wherein R'₈ is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted (aryl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, cyclobutyl, tetrazolyl, pyridyl, indazolyl, pyrazinyl, furanyl, isoxazolyl, pyrrolidinyl, benzimidazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl);

and wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R'₅ is H, halo, or lower alkyl;

R'₆ is selected from the group consisting of halo, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl);

R'₇ represents one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, hydroxyl, optionally substituted (lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, amino, cyano, and carbonyl);

the optional substituent or substituents on R'₁-R'₈ being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, mono or di-lower alkylamino,

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aminocarbonyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, sulfanyl, mono or di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, lower alkoxy, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₈ heterocycloalkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, nitryl, aryl; all of which, except halogen, are independently optionally substituted by one or more substituents, selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, mono or di-lower alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, mono or di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, carboxy, lower alkoxy, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₁₈ heterocycloalkyl, lower alkylcarbonyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, nitryl, aryl.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein is halo, ethyl or substituted methyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methylsulfanyl-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methylsulfanyl-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-propyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-butyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-ethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazole

{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-benzoimidazol-1-yl]-ethyl}-dimethyl-amine

4-Chloro-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Ethynyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-phenyl-1H-benzoimidazole

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3-[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-4-yl]-phenol

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-4-[3-(2-methoxy-ethoxy)-phenyl]-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-(3,5-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Methyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Ethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Ethylsulfanyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-cyclopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-cyclopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methylsulfanyl-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-(4-cyclopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4,5-Dibromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4,5-Dibromo-2-(4-cyclopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4,5-Dibromo-2-(4-isopropyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-5-bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Bromo-4-iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-2-methoxy-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

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4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-1-cyclopropylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Bromo-4-ethynyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile

4-Bromo-5-fluoro-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzyl-4-bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzyl-4-iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzyl-4-ethynyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Ethynyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-ethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-cyclobutylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(3-fluoro-benzyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(3-chloro-benzyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-thiazol-2-ylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyridin-3-ylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(2-methylsulfanyl-benzyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-(2-methanesulfinyl-benzyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-(2-methanesulfonyl-benzyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(3-methoxy-pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzyl-4-ethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

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4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(3-methoxy-benzyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-methanone

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-methanone

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(1-phenyl-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-4-carbonitrile

4-Isobutyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Benzyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4,7-Dibromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4,7-Dibromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-phenyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

3-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-phenol

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

3-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-benzoic acid ethyl ester

4-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-benzoic acid ethyl ester

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyridin-3-yl-1H-benzoimidazole

3-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-benzonitrile

1-{5-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-2-methoxy-phenyl}-ethanone

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-benzonitrile

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Iodo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyridin-4-yl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(4-methyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol

4-Bromo-5-imidazol-1-ylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(4-bromo-5-methyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-(4-bromo-3-methyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

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4-Bromo-5-(3,5-dimethyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

1-[4-Bromo-1-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(2-methoxymethyl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(2-methylsulfanyl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-benzoimidazol-2-ol

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(2-methylsulfanyl-benzoimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-(2-methanesulfinyl-benzoimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(2-methoxy-benzoimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

3-[4-Bromo-1-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester

2-[4-Bromo-5-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-3-ylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-benzoimidazol-1-yl]-ethanol

2-[4-Bromo-5-indazol-1-ylmethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-benzoimidazol-1-yl]-ethanol

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(5-methyl-tetrazol-2-ylmethyl)-benzoimidazol-1-yl]-ethanol

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4-Bromo-5-(4-bromo-5-methyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-2-(4-cyclopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(4-methyl-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)-1-(2-methylsulfanyl-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-5-isopropoxymethyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-pyrrolidin-2-one

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-phenylsulfanyl-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzenesulfinyl-4-bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

5-Benzyl-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-5-(2-methoxy-benzyl)-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-pyrazol-1-ylmethyl-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-phenoxy methyl-1H-benzoimidazole

2-{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanol

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2-[2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenoxy]-ethanol

{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-methanol

N-{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-acetamide

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-benzamide

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-benzenesulfonamide

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenylamine

1-{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanone

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenol

2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-pyridin-3-ol

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(pyridin-2-yloxymethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(2-methoxy-phenoxy)methyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

{3-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-2-methyl-phenyl}-methanol

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4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(pyridin-3-yloxy-methyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-(2-methanesulfonyl-phenoxy-methyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole

2-{3-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenoxy}-ethanol

2-{2-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-acetamide

2-{2-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenoxy}-ethanol

2-{2-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-ethanol

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-phenyl-amine

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-[2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl]-amine

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-[2-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amine

2-{2-[(4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-amino}-phenyl]-acetamide

2-[(4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-amino)-benzenesulfonic acid

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-[2-fluoro-phenyl]-amine

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[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-pyridin-2-yl-amine

2-[{4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl}-amino]-benzoic acid methyl ester

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-pyridin-3-yl-amine

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-methyl-phenyl-amine

[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-{(3-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-amine}

2-(2-{[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-amino}-phenyl)-acetamide

[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-{(2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-amine}

[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-[2-(2-methanesulfonyl-ethyl)-phenyl]-amine

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid dimethylamide

1-{1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}-ethanone

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-indole-2,3-dione

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4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-oxazol-2-ylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazole-2-carbonitrile

1-[4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methylamide

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-bromo-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-phenyl-amine

[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-pyridin-2-yl-amine

2-[(2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethyl]-amino}-benzenesulfonamide

2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-phenoxyethyl-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

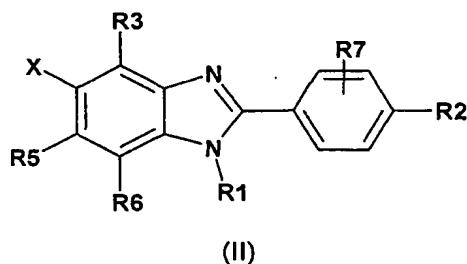
2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(pyridin-2-yloxyethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazole

2-[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-4-trifluoromethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethoxy]-benzenesulfonamide

4-Bromo-2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-7-methoxy-1-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-5-(pyridin-2-yloxy)-1H-benzoimidazole.

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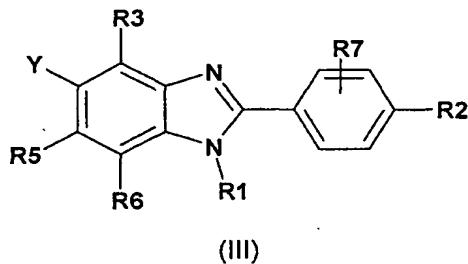
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.
6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 containing 0.03 to 300 mg of the compound of formula (I).
7. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 for promoting the release of parathyroid hormone.
8. A method for preventing or treating bone conditions which are associated with increased calcium depletion or resorption or in which stimulation of bone formation and calcium fixation in the bone is desirable in which an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable and -cleavable ester, or acid addition salt thereof is administered to a patient in need of such treatment.
9. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, comprising :
 - (a) introducing a group R4 into a corresponding compound of formula II, R4 being as defined in claim 1:



wherein X is any suitable group capable of substitution by R4 and wherein R1, R2, R3, R5, R6 and R7 are as defined in claim 1; or

(b) for the preparation of compounds wherein R4 is an aryl-CH₂ group, appropriately introducing such aryl group by reaction with a compound of formula III:

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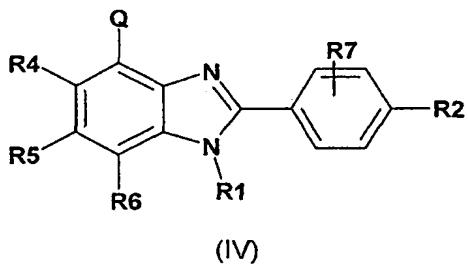


wherein Y denotes either:

- (i) a leaving group-CH₂- or
- (ii) the group -CH=O;

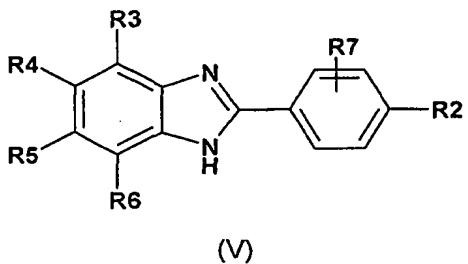
and R1, R2, R3, R5, R6 and R7 are as defined in claim 1; or

(c) introducing a group R3 into a corresponding compound of formula IV, R3 being as defined in claim 1:



wherein Q is any suitable group capable of substitution by R3 and wherein R1, R2, R4, R5, R6 and R7 are as defined in claim 1; or

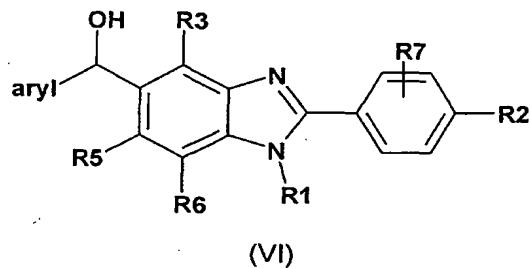
(d) appropriately N-substituting a corresponding compound of formula V by a group R1 as defined in claim 1:



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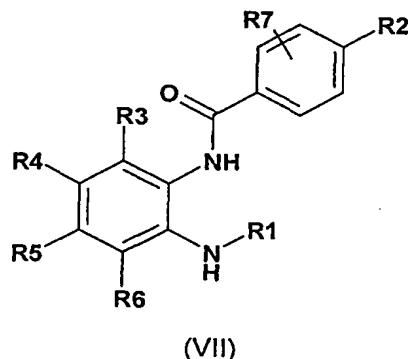
wherein R2-R7 are as defined in claim 1; or

(e) for the preparation of compounds wherein R4 is aryl-CO-, oxidizing a compound of formula (VI):



with a suitable oxidizing agent, wherein R1, R2, R3, R5, R6 and R7 are as defined in claim 1; or

(f) treating a compound of formula (VII):



under suitable conditions to effect ring closure, R1-R7 being as defined in claim 1;

and recovering the resultant compound of formula (I) in free or salt form.

10. Use of a compound of formula (I) in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating bone conditions which are associated with increased calcium depletion or resorption or in which stimulation of bone formation and calcium fixation in the bone is desirable.

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11. All novel compounds, processes, methods and uses substantially as hereinbefore described with particular reference to the Examples.